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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,047	02/13/2002	Norbert Becker	3286-0171P	7826

7590 07/13/2007
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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/13/2007

PAPER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/936,047
Filing Date: February 13, 2002
Appellant(s): BECKER ET AL.

MAILED

JUL 13 2007

Technology Center 2100

For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 3/12/2007 appealing from the Office action
mailed 6/6/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

US patent 5,974,572	Weinberg et al	10-1997
US patent 5,987,242	Bentley	11-1997

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberg et al (USP 5974572) in view of Bentley et al (or hereinafter "Bentley") (US 5987242).

As to claim 1, Weinberg teaches an automation system for creating an automation solution in automation technology (col. 7, lines 45-49) comprising:

" a plurality of automation objects which are to be created and work on, each automation object realizing a partial automation solution" as management of web sites, each web site is scan by Astra automatically and create each graphical site map showing all of the URLs of the site. In addition, users can utilize a Dynamic Scan feature of Astra to automatically append dynamically generated web pages to their maps. The above information shows that web sites are created and worked on users to create web pages. Web sites are represented as automation objects. Each web page is represented as a partial automation solution (col. 7, lines 40-65; figs. 7&8, col. 19, lines 7-10; col. 10, lines 25-26);

"a directory for entering and storing object names of the automation object when created" as a directory tree or map of a web site stores node object names such as xunner, uparrow and Mercury Interactive Product of the site graph object or web site. Node object names are represented as object names of the site graph object (figs. 3&8, col. 10, lines 64-66; col. 8, lines 25-40);

“ directory entries assigned to the respective object names, each directory entry including first information data as a reference to the respective automation object” as tree stores a leaf node name Xunner of parent node Mercuy Interactive product. The object node Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links and outbound links. The parent node Mercury Interactive product is connected to the object node Xunner by a link. This link, which, is a incoming link of object node Xunner, is represented as a reference to parent node Mercury Interactive product (fig. 3, col. 11, lines 9-23; col. 16, lines 42),

“second information data as a description of technological functionality of the respective automation object ” as the node object name Xunner contains the outbound links. To display a node's outgoing links, the user selects the node with the mouse and then clicks on the show outgoing links button 72 on the tool bar. Astra then displays all outgoing links from the node. The above information shows that the outgoing links of a node object is a description of functionality of the node object. The outgoing links of the node object name xunner is represented as description of technological functionality (figs. 3&6, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33), and

“third information data as a description of an interface of the respective automation object” as The object node Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links and outbound links. The parent node Mercury Interactive product is connected to the object node Xunner by a link. Xunner.gif is represented as a description of an interface (fig. 3, col. 11, lines 9-23; col. 16, lines 42),

“wherein once entry into the directory has taken place, the respective automation object can be viewed by at least one of other users and tools” as in fig. 3, a user can view the site map including parent node object 44 and seven leaf node objects 48. One the map has been

generated, the user can interactively navigate the map using various navigation tools of Astra GUI, such as scrolling controls 40 and 42 (col. 9, lines 54-57); and,

"wherein the object name of the respective automation object can be used to request a reference to the respective automation object" as node object name xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links or incoming links and outbound links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner can be used to request as a reference to the site graph object (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33).

"to be worked on by a number of users in parallel to create the automation solution in automation technology" as users can utilize a Dynamically generated web pages to their maps of the web sites. This information shows that web sites are worked on users to create web pages of maps of web sites. Web sites are worked by users not in parallel (col. 7, lines 59-62).

Weinberg does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "in parallel"

Weinberg teaches larger numbers of concurrent visitors access the web site on web servers via Internet or Intranet (fig. 7, col. 32, lines 57-58). Bentley teaches that projects are managed as a single unit by the CMS and are stored in a project database, generally on a networked server, so that concurrent access can be granted to multiple users of the project. To initiate a user session, a user executes a query of the project database to extract a subset of the project from the project database into a local database. The extraction is considered a long-term transaction to the project database such that during the user session no further interaction with the project database is required. If changes or additions are made to the extracted mode

objects during an editing session, such as changes and additions may be posted to the project database at the end of the user session. The above information shows that the project is worked on uses at the same time to create changes of the extracted mode objects (col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Frauenhofer's teaching of automatically creating channel map that contains a list of web servers, directories and other targets by using crawlers at the system server or Customer Intranet Server and allowing users to access the channel map to edit the pre-defined categories to support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects and further allow many users to work together on objects simultaneously.

As to claims 2 and 10, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein each directory entry includes fourth information data for listing the names of subcomponents of the respective automation object" as shown in fig. 6, the system displays a tree. A parent node 88 is displayed at the first level. The leaf node objects are displayed at second level and the second leaf node of the parent node object contains two another leaf node names that are displayed at third level of the tree. The leaf node names of the second leaf node are presented as the names of subcomponents of the at least one automation object. The parent node 88 is represented as the at least one automation object (fig. 6, col. 17, lines 28-32).

As to claims 3 and 5, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system includes means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory" as Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map showing all of the URLs

of the site and the links between these URLs. The layout and display method used by Astra for generating the site map provides a highly intuitive, graphical representation, which allows the user to visualize the layout of the site. As illustrated in fig. 4, a site map is displayed to a user. Each leaf node such as company and 10k.pdf is represented as entry of parent node mercury Interactive Online within site map or tree. Whenever the user selects a node in the upper window 76, the corresponding line in the list view window 78 is automatically highlighted. Each leaf node within site map or tree is represented as automation entry. The parent node Mercury Interactive Online is represented as automation object. The site map or tree is represented as the directory. Astra is represented as the automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49; col. 16, lines 60-63).

As to claims 4 and 6-8, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system includes means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available" as a node object 45 of the site map in fig. 3, which is indicated a question mark and implies missing its URL, shows this object node no longer available (col. 10, lines 19-25). Also, any node object on a site map has a deleted URL as indicated in deleted URL box as shown in fig. 21 implies that node object is no longer available too. The node object 45 is represented as automation object and "that a copy of the object is being created" as to restore the visual web display view, the user clicks on the VWD button 73. The Visual Web Display View contains node objects. When the system restores the Visual Web Display View, the system restores node objects (fig. 1, col. 12, lines 45-46). Restore means to copy back (Computer Dictionary, page 410, col. Right, lines 1-4).

As to claim 9, Weinberg teaches an automation system for creating an automation solution in automation technology (col. 7, lines 45-49) comprising:

"a plurality of automation objects, each automation object realizing a partial automation solution" as management of web sites, each web site is scan by Astra automatically and create each graphical site map showing all of the URLs of the site. In addition, users can utilize a Dynamic Scan feature of Astra to automatically append dynamically generated web pages to their maps. The above information shows that web sites are created and worked on users to create web pages. Web sites are represented as automation objects. Each web page is represented as a partial automation solution (col. 7, lines 40-65; figs. 7&8, col. 19, lines 7-10; col. 10, lines 25-26);

"a memory for entering and storing object names of the automation objects, when created, as directory entries in a directory" as Astra of client computer automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map or tree showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs. The layout and display method used by Astra for generating the site map provides a highly intuitive, graphical representation, which allows the user to visualize the layout of the site. As illustrated in fig. 3, a site map is displayed to a user. This site map stores node object names such as Xunner and Uparrow of parent node object 44. The node object name is stored in a leaf node of site map. The above information shows that client computer has included a memory for storing object names such as Xunner and Uparrow. The node object name is represented as object name. The site map or tree is represented as a directory (fig.8, col. 10, lines 64-66; col. 7, lines 45-49);

"wherein each object name includes, first information data as a reference to the respective automation object" as node object name Xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links or incoming links and

outbound links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner that is represented as reference to the parent node object 44 (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33),

"second information data as a description of technological functionality of the respective automation object" as the node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links and outbound links. To display a node's outgoing links, the user selects the node with the mouse and then clicks on the show outgoing links button 72 on the tool bar. Astra then displays all outgoing links from the node. The above information shows that the outgoing links of a node object is a description of functionality of the node object. The outgoing links of the node object name Xunner is represented as description of technological functionality (figs. 3&6, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33), and

"third information data as a description of an interface of the respective automation object" as shown in fig. 3, the parent node object 44 has many children node object 48; thus, it has many interfaces. The node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif>. Xunner.gif is represented as a description of interfaces of parent node object 44 (fig. 3, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines 30-33);

"wherein the respective automation object, when in the directory, is viewable by at least one of another user and tool" as in fig. 3, a user can view tree map including parent node object 44 and seven leaf node objects 48. Once the map has been generated, the user can interactively navigate the map using various navigation tools of Astra GUI, such as scrolling controls 40 and 42 (col. 9, lines 54-57); and,

"wherein the object name of the respective automation object is usable to request a reference to the respective automation object" as node object name Xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links or incoming links and outbound links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner that is represented as reference to the parent node object 44 (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33);

"wherein the object name of the respective automation object can be used to request a reference to the respective automation object" as node object name xunner of parent node object 44 is assigned to a leaf node of a tree. The node object name Xunner contains the URL i.e., <http://beebop:680/banners/xunner.gif> and the number of inbound links or incoming links and outbound links. As illustrated in fig. 22, an analogous display format is used for displaying the incoming links to a node. Leaf node objects or children node object link back to their parents. The above information shows an incoming link of the leaf node object name Xunner can be used to request as a reference to the site graph object (figs. 3&22, col. 11, lines 9-13; col. 17, lines30-33).

"to be worked on by a number of users in parallel to create the automation solution in automation technology" as users can utilize a Dynamically generated web pages to their maps of the web sites. This information shows that web sites are worked on users to create web pages of maps of web sites. Web sites are worked by users not in parallel (col. 7, lines 59-62).

Weinberg does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "in parallel"

Weinberg teaches larger numbers of concurrent visitors access the web site on web servers via Internet or Intranet (fig. 7, col. 32, lines 57-58). Bentley teaches that projects are managed as a single unit by the CMS and are stored in a project database, generally on a networked server, so that concurrent access can be granted to multiple users of the project. To initiate a user session, a user executes a query of the project database to extract a subset of the project from the project database into a local database. The extraction is considered a long-term transaction to the project database such that during the user session no further interaction with the project database is required. If changes or additions are made to the extracted mode objects during an editing session, such as changes and additions may be posted to the project database at the end of the user session. The above information shows that the project is worked on uses at the same time to create changes of the extracted mode objects (col. 4, lines 60-67; col. 5, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Frauenhofer's teaching of automatically creating channel map that contains a list of web servers, directories and other targets by using crawlers at the system server or Customer Intranet Server and allowing users to access the channel map to edit the pre-defined categories to support collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects and further allow many users to work together on objects simultaneously.

As to claims 11 and 13, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system further comprises means for the automatic entry of an automation object into the directory" as Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphic site map showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs. The layout and display method

used by Astra for generating the site map provides a highly intuitive, graphical representation, which allows the user to visualize the layout of the site. As illustrated in fig. 4, a site map is displayed to a user. Each leaf node such as company and 10k.pdf is represented as entry of parent node mercury Interactive Online within site map or tree. Whenever the user selects a node in the upper window 76, the corresponding line in the list view window 78 is automatically highlighted. Each leaf node within site map or tree is represented as automation entry. The parent node Mercury Interactive Online is represented as automation object. The site map or tree is represented as the directory. Astra is represented as the automation system (col. 7, lines 45-49; col. 16, lines 60-63).

As to claims 12 and 14-16, Weinberg teaches the claimed limitation "wherein the automation system further comprises means for indicating that an automation object is no longer available" as a node object 45 of the site map in fig. 3, which is indicated a question mark and implies missing its URL, shows this object node no longer available (col. 10, lines 19-25). Also, any node object on a site map has a deleted URL as indicated in deleted URL box as shown in fig. 21 implies that node object is no longer available too. The node object 45 is represented as automation object and "that a copy of the object is being created" as to restore the visual web display view, the user clicks on the VWD button 73. The Visual Web Display View contains node objects. When the system restores the Visual Web Display View, the system restores node objects (fig. 1, col. 12, lines 45-46). Restore means to copy back (Computer Dictionary, page 410, col. Right, lines 1-4).

(10) Response to Argument

A. Appellant argued that Weinberg's system does not create, show or describe objects.

In response to Appellant's argument, the claimed "object" would be given the broadest reasonable meaning as something that when viewed stirs a particular emotion (defined in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, page 814, col. left). In addition, Appellant did not provide any definition for an object in the specification. Thus, the broadest reasonable meaning of the word "object", taken in context of the surrounding words can include nodes of a graphic site map in cited Weinberg (figs. 1 & 3). Weinberg teaches "Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphical site map showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs (col. 7, lines 45-50). Fig. 1 illustrates a site map 30 of a demonstration Web site. The web site is depicted by Astra as a collection of nodes, with pairs of nodes interconnected by lines. Each node of the map represents a respective content object of the Web site (col. 8, lines 25-35). The term "node" refers to URL icon as displayed with the site map (col. 10, lines 62-64)." It's clear that Astra scans the Web site to create a graphical site map and create a plurality of nodes (objects) of the site map.

B. Appellant argued that Weinberg's objects do not worked on to create the automation solution.

In response to Appellant's argument, Weinberg teaches "when a user clicks on a URL icon, a menu appears which allows the user to perform a variety of actions with respect to the URL, including viewing the URL's properties, and launching an HTML editor to retrieve and edit URL. For example, the user can click on node 44 and can then launch an HTML editor to edit the HTML document and delete the reference to missing URL 45. As illustrated by fig. 3,

missing URLs are represented with Astra maps by a question mark icon" (col. 10, lines 14-25). Weinberg also teaches "to display a node's outgoing links, the user selects the node with the mouse and then click on the show outgoing links. Astra then displays all outgoing links from the node. Fig. 6 illustrates the most the general display format used by Astra for displaying the outgoing links of a selected node 88 "(col. 17, lines 28-29). The claimed "automation" would be given the broadest reasonable meaning as automatically controlled operation of a process (defined in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, page 118, col. left). The claimed "solution" would be given the broadest reasonable meaning as answer to a problem (defined in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, page 1123, col. right). In addition, Appellant did not provide any definition for "automation solution" in the specification. Thus, the broadest reasonable meaning of the words "automation solution", taken in context of the surrounding words can include displaying the outgoing links of a selected node and editing HTML document and delete the reference to missing URL 45 after selecting a node. As discussed above, clearly, nodes (objects) of Weinberg are worked on to create automation solution such as displaying the outgoing links of a selected node and editing HTML document and deleting the reference to missing URL 45.

C. Appellant argued that Weinberg do not teach any directory for entering and storing names of the graphical site maps as the automation objects".

In response to Appellant's argument, this claimed limitation is not recited in claims. However, Weinberg teaches a directory for entering and storing object names of the automation objects when created as "Astra automatically scans the Web site and creates a graphical site map showing all of the URLs of the site and the links between these URLs" (col. 7, lines 45-50). "The web site is depicted by Astra as a collection of nodes, with pairs of nodes

interconnected by lines. Each node of the map represents a respective content object of the Web site" (col. 8, lines 25-35). Fig. 3, all of the children 48 are leaf nodes. Each node has a name. For example, node 46's name is Mercury..., node 36's name is xunne. "The annotations (page titles, filename, etc.) of the URLs begin to appear (below the associated icons). While navigating the map, the user can double click on the URL icon for an HTML document to retrieve and view the corresponding web page" (col. 10, lines 1-10). "To display the incoming links of a node, the user selects the node and then clicks on the displaying the incoming links button 71. A screen display illustrating the incoming links format is shown in fig. 22" (col. 12, lines 41-45). It is clear that the site map is used to store names of nodes (automation objects); thus, when a user selects a node, Astra displays to a user a graphical site map that contains nodes, each node has a name.

The claimed "directory" would be given the broadest reasonable meaning as collection of directions (defined in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, page 328, col. right).

Thus, the broadest reasonable meaning of the words "directory", taken in context of the surrounding words can include "the graphic site map" that has plurality of nodes in different directions and users can select any node to retrieve an HTML document as discussed (in fig. 3, col. 10, lines 1-10 of Weinberg.)

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.

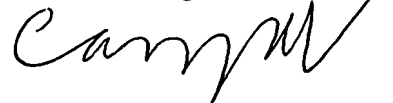
Art Unit: 2162

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

7/2/2007

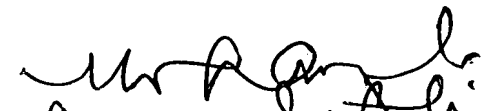
Cam-Y Truong



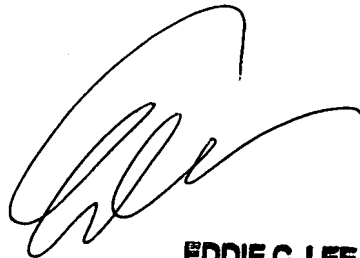
Conferees:

John Breene, Supervisor Art Unit: 2162

for
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Mohammad Ali
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Lee Eddie C (SPE)



EDDIE C. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER